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Montana State
Occupational
Information
Coordinating
Committee



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Spring, 1984

Volume One - Number Two

MONTANA SOICC NEWSLETTER

Apprenticeship

Just what is apprenticeship? Apprenticeship is a method of teaching highly technical manual skills via a combination of on-the-job training and related classroom instruction. Apprenticeship standards approved by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Apprenticeship Bureau and local apprenticeship councils govern the scope of work, courses of instruction, length of training, and rate of pay. Apprentices who complete a specific program are given certificates which show that they are qualified as highly skilled journeymen in their respective craft or trade.

Apprenticeships offer job satisfaction, highly marketable skills, competitive wages, and opportunities for growth. Most skilled craft workers obtain much satisfaction from working with their hands and seeing results of their work take shape. Former apprentices earn higher wages, have more stable work histories, and are promoted sooner and more often than workers who have not trained in apprenticeships.

Most apprenticeships vary in length from two years to five years. Each apprentice works in an actual job setting under the supervision of certified journeymen. Apprentices also take courses in mathematics, sciences, and other technical subjects which are related to a specific craft or trade. Those courses are usually offered by vocational technical centers, adult education centers, correspondence schools, and apprenticeship councils.

Qualifications for apprenticeships vary by trade, employer, and local apprenticeship councils but usually include a minimum age of 18, a high school diploma or its equivalent, and the physical requirements to work in a specific trade. Applicants often must take an aptitude test and are usually interviewed by a selection committee. Generally, there is a three to six month period between selection and job assignment. Starting wages for an apprenticeship vary from 35 to 80 percent of the journeyman's wage with the average being 50 percent.

If you are interested in apprenticeship information, write for the following publications: "Montana Apprenticeship Information," Montana SOICC, Post Office Box 1728, Helena, Montana 59624 and "A Woman's Guide to Apprenticeship," Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, D.C. 20210. The address of the Montana Apprenticeship Bureau is Apprenticeship Bureau, Labor Standards Division, Department of Labor and Industry, Post Office Box 1728, Helena, Montana 59624 (406) 444-5600.

Governor's Committee on Employment
of the Handicapped

The Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped (GCEH) was established in Montana in 1974 at the request of the Governor. The overall goal of GCEH is to promote economic independence of disabled Montanans by increasing employer acceptance and employment of disabled individuals.

Its goals include:

- . Providing ideas, direction and advice to the state to aid in the determination of appropriate employment activities for the disabled,
- . Aid in identification of problem areas with regard to employment of disabled persons and targeting those areas for specific action,
- . Providing a forum for the exchange of information and serving as the state's primary liaison to the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, and
- . Working with employers to encourage them to employ disabled persons in their respective work force.

For more information on GCEH contact:

Bob Liston, Coordinator
Governor's Committee on Employment of
the Handicapped
State Personnel Division
Mitchell Building - Room 130
Helena, Montana 59620

Something to Think About...

One cannot choose what one does not know and many occupations are not known to most of us. One may stumble into an appropriate occupation, by sheer luck, but the wise choice of an occupation requires accurate information about what occupations are available, what they require, and what they offer.

- Robert H. Hoppock
New York University

Meet SOICC and Technical Steering
Committee Members

As mentioned in our first newsletter, the Montana SOICC is comprised of six state agencies which include the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, the Office of Public Instruction, two divisions of the Department of Labor and Industry, the Department of Commerce, and Higher Education.

The SOICC representative from the Job Service and Training Division, Department of Labor and Industry is T. Gary Curtis, Division Administrator.

Gary has worked for the Department of Labor since 1977 and was formerly Administrator of the Employment and Training Division. He supervises all Job Service offices statewide and the JSTD staff in Helena as well.

Gary is a Missoula, Montana native and attended the University of Montana. He has taught the dynamics of management at the U of M, for the Department of Revenue, the Department of Administration, the Montana County Assessors' Association, and the Helena Learners' Exchange. Gary has one young son.

The SOICC's Technical Steering Committee (TSC) representative from the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, Montana University System, is Paul Dunham, Director of Research and Services. Paul has worked for CHE since 1976; he coordinates all University System campus registrars, computer center directors, and state agencies for information needs, planning, and computer process and acquisition needs. He also is involved with system-wide institutional research and the development of management information systems.

Paul was born in Maine, educated in Vermont (MA from the University of Vermont at Burlington), has lived in Montana since 1976, has two grown children, and is a runner.

Fran Mares, Editor
Bob Arnold, Montana SOICC Program Manager
Spring, 1984

350 copies of this newsletter were produced at an individual cost of \$24.36, for a total cost of \$85.05 which includes \$25.55 for printing and \$59.50 for distribution.

The National Governor's Association is developing a Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) Lexicon which will be available in the near future. The Lexicon contains 500 terms, source citations, an introduction, acronym listing, and a separate functional classification. For more information contact NGA, Hall of the States, 444 North Capitol Street, Washington, DC 20001.

JTPA Lexicon

This publication centers on job placement, job development, and organizing training and placement councils. Its available from the National Center for Research in Vocational Education, Box C, National Center Publications, 1960 Kenny Road, Columbus, Ohio 43210. Prepaid cost is \$9.00; order publication number RD218.

Job Placement in Employment and Training Programs: An Action Guidebook



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